REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 4 and 7 being independent claims.

Claims 1-3, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bick (U.K. Pat. App. No. GB 2,367,530).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claxton (U.S. Pat. No. 6,448,919) in view of Bick.

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claxton in view of Bick and further in view of Honda (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0185444).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bick in view of Claxton.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner states that Bick discloses each and every element of the claim. Amended Claim 1 teaches a keypad assembly for a portable radiotelephone that is *exclusively used in one of a touch screen function . . . and a key button function . . . according to a predetermined input mode* of the radiotelephone.

Bick discloses an electronic apparatus having a keypad 7 (FIG. 1) that "may operate as a conventional keypad and, either *independently or simultaneously*, as a touch sensitive pointing device" (page 4 lines 18-19). When a user depresses a key in the keypad 7 for an input, the controller 15 of the electronic apparatus will process the input as a conventional key interface (FIG. 2, page 4 lines 21-28). When a user lightly touches a key in the keypad 7 without exerting enough force to depress the key, the controller 15 will then treat the key as a touch-sensitive pointing device (FIG. 2, page 4 lines 30-31). Therefore, the keypad 7 of Bick can clearly be used *simultaneously* as a conventional keypad (first type of user input) and a touch sensitive pointing device (second type of user input); and for each input at a key, the controller 15 will recognize the user input as the first type or the second type *after* the user depresses or lightly

touches the key, respectively. Bick fails to disclose or fairly suggest *a predetermined input mode* taught by Claim 1 of the present application.

Bick also claims that the keypad 7 may operate as a conventional keypad and *independently* as a touch sensitive pointing device by disclosing on page 5 line 25 that a "portion of the area of the keymat [keypad 7] may serve as a touch pad," i.e. as a touch sensitive pointing device, and more explicitly in Claim 2 that "the keypad includes a region provided with said impedance sensing means by without a key." Bick's disclosure indicates that the keypad 7 may include one region independently used as a touch sensitive pointing device and the rest of the keypad 7 having keys for a conventional keypad. Bick fails to disclose anywhere a keypad assembly that is *exclusively used in one of a touch screen function and a key button function* as taught by Amended Claim 1 of the present application.

Further, the simultaneous dual types of user input according to Bick raise a problem regarding user dexterity. If a user wants to actuate the touch sensitive pointing function but inadvertently depresses a key, controller 15 may receive an input signal inconsistent with user's intent. A similar problem occurs when the user only lightly touches the keypad while intending to actuate the conventional keypad function. The keypad assembly that is *exclusively used in one of a touch screen function and a key button function* taught by Amended Claim 1 of the present application solves the above problems.

Clearly, Amended Claim 1 structurally differs from Bick.

The above rationale for Amended Claim 1 also applies similarly to Amended Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) regarding Bick.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner states that Claxton in view of Bick renders the claim obvious. Amended Claim 4 teaches a portable radiotelephone comprising an input unit having *a keypad which physically integrates a touch screen panel* and can alternatively function as the touch screen panel; and a control unit . . . to *operate the input unit exclusively* as one of the touch screen panel and the keypad.

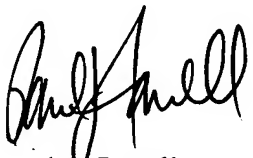
Claxton discloses a phone that provides dual input functions by an input unit comprising a traditional phone keypad 118 and a touch panel 310 physically separated from the traditional phone keypad 118 (FIG. 3). Claxton fails to disclose *a keypad which physically integrates a touch screen panel* as taught by Amended Claim 4 and so conceded on page 7 of the Office Action. Claxton also fails to disclose anywhere a control unit to *operate the input unit exclusively* as one of the touch screen panel and the keypad taught by Amended Claim 4.

Bick also fails to disclose an input unit *exclusively* operating as one of the touch screen panel and the keypad.

Therefore, Amended Claim 4 structurally differs from Claxton, Bick, or the combination thereof.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-8, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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